

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with Gerald Mohr, Chairman, Warren Norris, Charles Smith, Janet Kile, Marvin Hedrick, Scott Barnes, Mary Ann Beard, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance. Steve Mc Corkle was absent due to knee surgery.

Chairman Gerald Mohr called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved on a motion by Charles Smith and seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

EMS

Quarterly EMS financial reports were received from Anderson Township Volunteer Fire Department and Carthage Volunteer Fire Department. Anderson Township reported that a full time person is on station during the day in Milroy.

TREASURER

Cindy Humphrey, County Treasurer presented a monthly report of fund balances. Humphrey pointed out that disbursements have been very high in the County General Fund.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Deana Victorio, Dennis Simmons, and Rita Emsweller were present to share information about Rush County Victims Assistance. Phoenix House provides a safe shelter to victims of domestic violence. The majority of funding is provided by the Criminal Justice Institute and private donations. They asked that we share the information on services provided and consider a donation in the county budget.

AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE

The Sheriff has hired two part time security officers for the courthouse at \$22 per hour. The Auditor determined that the rate of pay was not set in the salary ordinance for 2015. After discussion Marvin Hedrick made a motion to pay the security officers who had attended the police academy \$18 per hour and those that are pre-basic \$15 per hour starting the first pay in March with payment at \$22 per hour until that payroll. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Area Plan Director was allotted \$4,000 in the salary ordinance. Marvin Hedrick moved to increase the salary ordinance to \$16,000. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EXTENSION

Kristi Amos reported that 4-H enrollment was just completed. Will Schakel is hosting the "Donut Series" for the farm community and Gracie Marlatt is focusing on the fitness initiative.

RUSH/SHELBY BUILDING

The Council had approved the purchase of the Rush/Shelby Energy building on Main St. in the amount of \$150,000. There was conversation about leasing the fiber hut and what businesses are currently occupying the building. Janet Kile moved that an additional appropriation of \$175,000 from the Riverboat Fund be advertised for the purchase and expenses relating to the acquisition of the Rush/Shelby building. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried with Charles Smith abstaining.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The auditor presented two additional appropriation requests. The first is for \$40,000 in the wind farm expense fund to pay professional fees incurred which are being paid by NextEra. Charles Smith moved to approve the request. Scott Barnes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The second request to appropriate \$500 for a local grant awarded to the EMA was approved on a motion by Warren Norris and Charles Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TRANSFER

Marvin Hedrick moved to approve a transfer of funds from GIS plotter to GIS supplies in the amount of \$1,000. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LCC

The Local Coordinating Council for safe and drug free schools and communities represented by Bob Bridges submitted a request for the annual distribution of funds in the amount of \$20,000. The auditor shared that there was \$27,767 in the fund but distribution will depend on the approval of the LCC plan that was submitted to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Warren Norris moved to approve up to \$20,000 with Charles Smith seconding the motion. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

The sheriff reported 32 inmates at this time, with DOC prisoners numbering 2. Cowan reported that the video conferencing equipment has been moved to the law library to eliminate noise during the broadcast.

RADIOS

Travis Edwards, technical contact from Kenwood and Matt Alexander from Owens Communications presented a plan to address radio issues with dispatch at the Rush County Jail. They listed several problems and solutions in order of importance with the antenna issue being foremost. A proposed amount of \$30,730.31 to replace the tower was submitted. Nick White chairperson for the Rush County Fire Chiefs Association submitted a letter on behalf of the Fire

Chief's Association urging the Council to authorize the recommended plan to be paid by the 911 fund.

Charles Smith made the motion to advertise for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$31,000 for the update Marvin Hedrick seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Commissioners will need to approve the contract.

AUDITOR

- Reminder that the Jail Study Committee will meet today at the Posey Township Fire Department at 11:00a.m.
- The purchase of a used conference table in the amount of \$400 was allowed on a motion by Marvin Hedrick and seconded by Janet Kile.

Charles Smith moved to adjourn. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Gerald Mohr
Gerald Mohr, Chairman

/s/ Warren Norris
Warren Norris

/s/ Charles Smith
Charles Smith

/s/ Janet Kile
Janet Kile

/s/ Marvin Hedrick
Marvin Hedrick

/s/ Scott Barnes
Scott Barnes

absent
Steve McCorkle

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor